REMARKS

By the present amendment, claims 2-10, 12-16, 18-27 and 29-33 have been amended to recite dependencies in the conventional manner.[1] It is respectfully submitted that these amendments do not introduce any new issues requiring a new search or consideration.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102 and § 103

The pending claims have been rejected as being anticipated by, or obvious over, U.S. Publication No. 2003/0114206 to Timothy.[2] Timothy is directed towards real-time tracking of the transportation of a package to a predetermined destination. In other words, Timothy tracks the delivery of a particular package to a particular person at a particular address. As delivery personnel may be delivering other different packages to other addresses in the same vicinity, it is important that the correct package be delivered to the correct address and/or person. Timothy also provides a means for the delivery company to verify that delivery of a particular package has occurred and was accepted by an identifiable individual (*e.g.*, the person accepting the package may be required to sign a signature capture window).

Timothy, however, is not directed towards a mass delivery situation. In a mass delivery situation, the same item is delivered to a large number of sites (*i.e.*, residences or businesses). Typically, a delivery person will drive to a specific region and then hand deliver the item to each residence on the street(s) in this region. In a mass delivery situation, the identification of individual addresses is not important, as every residence on a particular street is a potential delivery location. Also, since the same item is delivered to each home/business, an identification of each item sent to a particular address is not necessary. Consequently, systems such as that shown in Timothy (which provide individual addresses and/or delivered item identification) are superfluous, inefficient and essentially unworkable in a mass delivery situation.

The present invention provides a mass delivery communication system for collecting and processing completion data for **an item that is to be <u>mass delivered</u>** in

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[1]These amendments are believed to eliminate the Examiner's objections to the claims.

[2]Claim 30 has been rejected as being obvious over Timothy in view of US 2005/0043059 to Petite.

a predetermined area comprising a plurality of particular regions, each containing a plurality of delivery sites. In this system, the mobile terminal unit is programmed to receive input regarding **completion of delivery in one of the particular regions**. The present invention also provides a method comprising the steps of delivering the **same item** to each of a plurality of delivery sites in a first particular region[3] and inputting **delivery completion in the first particular region** into a mobile terminal unit operationally disposed with delivery personnel. Timothy does not show or suggest such a system and/or method.[4]

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance and an early action to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING (37 CFR 1.8a)

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper or thing referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Date: October 12, 2005 _____
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[3]The first particular region is part of a predetermined area comprising a plurality of particular regions.

[4]Petite, which is directed towards a system/method for remotely monitoring electric meters, does not overcome this shortcoming in the base Timothy reference.